

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending in this application. Claim 1, which is independent, is hereby amended. Claims 9-15 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,311,286 to Pike in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0210329 to Aagaard, et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,535,793 to Allard.

Claims 3, 5, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,311,286 to Pike in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0210329 to Aagaard, et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,535,793 to Allard further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,841,963 to Song, et al.

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,311,286 to Pike in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0210329 to Aagaard, et

al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,535,793 to Allard further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,384,431 to Tusques, et al.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,311,286 to Pike in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0210329 to Aagaard, et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,535,793 to Allard and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,850,024 to Peless, et al.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...an attitude unit that causes said robot apparatus placed on said diagnostic mat to assume a stance suitable for obtaining an image of the diagnostic mat by comprising searching for a visual line direction of the stereo camera such that the texture fits in the region to be diagnosed within an image obtained by the stereo camera; and adjusting the size of the region to be diagnosed within the image obtained by the stereo camera such that the texture covers the size in the visual line direction of the stereo camera...” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 5,311,286 to Pike (hereinafter, merely “Pike”) relates to optically measuring the roughness or another dimension of a surface by transmitting a beam of light through a grating member at an angle of incidence relative to the grating member.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Publication No. 2003/0210329 to Aagaard, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Aagaard”) relates to a multiple camera video system. The cameras are remotely controlled in a master-slave configuration. A camera operator at a master pan head selects one of the cameras as the current master and utilizes the master pan head to adjust the telemetry and zoom of the master camera to follow a target object. The telemetry and zoom

parameters are then used to calculate corresponding telemetry, zoom, and other parameters for each of the other cameras.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,535,793 to Allard (hereinafter, merely "Allard") relates to remote control of a mobile robot and an intuitive user interface for remotely controlling a mobile robot using a click and point device to choose a target location.

Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Pike, Aagaard or Allard, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or disclose the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that Pike, Aagaard, and Allard fail to teach or suggest an attitude unit that causes said robot apparatus placed on said diagnostic mat to assume a stance suitable for obtaining an image of the diagnostic mat by comprising searching for the visual line direction of the stereo camera such that the texture fits in the region to be diagnosed within an image obtained by the stereo camera and adjusting the size of the region to be diagnosed within the image obtained by the stereo camera such that the texture covers the size in the visual line direction of the stereo camera, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, claim 1 is patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

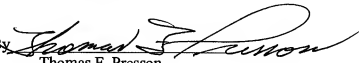
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,
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